

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 04162 072355Z

66 L
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

AID-20 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PRS-01 DRC-01

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R 072325Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4063
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 4162

E.O. 11652 - GDS
TAGS: OCON, PFOR, S
SUBJECT: BOGOTA MEETING OF LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS

REF: STATE 212801

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER CASTANEDA ON NOVEMBER 6, I RAISED THE MATTER OF THE SUBJECT MEETING IN ORDER TO PRESENT OUR VIEWS AS CONTAINED IN REFTEL. CASTANEDA LISTENED CAREFULLY BUT OFFERED NO COMMENT. HOWEVER, HE NODDED ASSENTINGLY THROUGHOUT MY PRESENTATION, FROM WHICH I CONCLUDE THAT HE PERSONALLY SHARES OUR HOPE THAT THE MEETING WOULD ESTABLISH A BASIS FOR IMPROVED US-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS THROUGH A SUBSEQUENT PRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE.

2. CASTANEDA THEN VOLUNTEERED HIS JUDGEMENT THAT THE MEETING WAS UNTIMELY AND PREMATURE. HE SAID THAT TOO LITTLE TIME HAD BEEN ALLOTTED FOR THE LA GOVERNMENTS TO PREPARE FOR THE

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PAGE 02 SAN SA 04162 072355Z

MEETING. (IN A LATER CONVERSATION WITH ANOTHER EMBASSY OFFICER,

CASTANEDA SAID THAT HE FEARED THAT ALL THAT WOULD RESULT FROM THE BOGOTA MEETING WAS ANOTHER "SHOPPING LIST" OF LATIN AMERICAN DEMANDS ON THE US). MOREOVER, HE FEARED THAT THE US, FACING SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS SIMULTANEOUSLY, WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. FINALLY, HE EXPRESSED HIS BELIEF THAT THE MEETING WAS BOUND TO BE INHIBITED BY THE APPARENT DECISION OF AT LEAST BRAZIL AND POSSIBLY ARGENTINA NOT TO BE REPRESENTED AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

3. AS FOR THE GOES' OWN PLANS, CASTANEDA SAID THAT THAT FOREIGN MINISTER BORGONOVO POHL WOULD ATTEND THE BOGOTA MEETING. BORGONOVO IS WINDING UP A SIX-WEEK VISIT TO EUROPE AND JAPAN AND IS DUE TO RETURN TO EL SALVADOR ON NOVEMBER 9 OR 10, LEAVING HIM LITTLE TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE MEETING. CASTANEDA SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD CABLED SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO BORGONOVO IN TOKYO.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SANS04162
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731149/aaaabjzy.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 212801
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Nov-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <13-Dec-2001 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOGOTA MEETING OF LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS
TAGS: OCON, PFOR, CO, XM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005